

Hello,

Thank you to everyone who reached out! Here is some more information regarding the restoration event for those who RSVP'd or requested more information. All details are subject to change.

Arrival

On the day of your arrival, you will check in with me at [Valley View Ranch](#). We will get you signed up as a volunteer, go over a few basic safety items, orient you to basecamp and other campsites, and answer any questions you may have.

General Info

We will begin each day at 8 am with a tailgate safety meeting and morning stretch session. By 8:30 we will assign groups and planting locations. Paper maps will also be available. Groups will head out together to planting locations which will most likely require a little bit of driving from Valley View. If you indicated you do not have an off-road capable vehicle, you will be assigned a planting site off a paved road. If you indicated you or your group might not be up for a big hike, you will be assigned to something closer to roads or other basecamp duties.

We will be using a couple of different planting techniques as part of an experiment to determine the minimum necessary requirements to ensure good survival success. The first year's results will inform future planting designs. We will make sure everyone understands before you head out. Planting teams of 5-6 people will travel as a unit to designated planting areas. You will use a smartphone app called Survey123 (free) that will let you navigate to the site, record some basic information like ID number, location, planting technique used, and take a picture of each plant. We will also be using the same app for the Adopt-a-Joshua-Tree program that will begin in 2022. Each team will carry 6-12 plants, a small amount of wire mesh fencing, a few pieces of 24-inch rebar, bailing wire, ID tags for each plant, shovels, trowels, shade cloth, and about 6 gallons of water. Most planting sites are within a couple miles of the road; however, some sites are up to 3 miles from the nearest road. The terrain is pretty gentle and uniform, averaging about 3-5% slope. The fire cleared out most of the vegetation, so hiking is fairly unobstructed; however, there are some patches of unburned vegetation or rocky sections you may have to pass through.

Mid-November you will receive another email with additional instructions on how to load the project in Survey123 and a more detailed guide on the different planting techniques.

Camping/Lodging/Amenities

We will be setting up a basecamp at Valley View Ranch where NPS staff will be camping for the duration of the event. You are welcome to camp here, but not required. There are plenty of dispersed campsites on Cima Dome within a few miles of Valley View Ranch, and we can direct you and your group if you would like some more privacy. Currently, there is no water or electricity at Valley View. We will have a couple of mobile water tanks, but campers should try to bring their own water. There is cell phone service at Valley View and throughout most of Cima Dome; however, there are a few places with no coverage though. We know where these are, and groups travelling to these areas will be assigned a radio that can communicate with basecamp. The Survey123 app will work without cell service as long as Location Services are turned on. We can show you how to do this if you need help.

It is possible to get freezing temperatures on Cima Dome in December, so please plan accordingly. We will be sending out weather updates as the event approaches to make sure everyone is prepared. Fires are allowed in established dispersed campsites; however, people should refrain if it is windy.

There is a gas station at the Cima Rd. exit off I-15; however, it can be pricey (\$5.19/gal on 9/22/21). It's best to fill up in Barstow (if coming from LA) or Las Vegas, and then just get enough gas to get back. There is also reasonably priced gas in Searchlight, NV.

The closest hotels are a little over 40 minutes away in Primm, NV. Rooms are reasonably priced but be aware they might not be up to the same cleanliness standards as major cities like Las Vegas. I've heard both OK and bad things about them.

Safety & COVID guidelines

We will be able to provide basic first aid at Valley View Ranch. Serious injuries will be transported to Las Vegas by ambulance or helicopter. We will be requiring all (eligible) volunteers to be vaccinated or provide proof of a negative COVID test result taken no more than 3 days (72 hours) before you arrive. We will accept either vaccination cards or CA Vaccine Passports. Test results can be PCR or Rapid Antigen. At this point, we all know how quickly things can change. These guidelines are subject to change, but will, in general, follow CDC guidelines. As of right now, we will not be allowing volunteers from different parties to ride together.

Directions to Valley View Ranch

- From Los Angeles:
 - Take I-15 North to Cima Rd. (Exit 272). Turn right (south) off exit. Drive for ~10.0 miles and take a right onto a gravel road which will have a "Volunteer Event" sign. Drive for about 1.67 miles until you reach Valley View Ranch. Make your way to the ranch house where I will be waiting under a white EZ-UP.
- From Las Vegas
 - Take I-15 South to Cima Rd. (Exit 272). Follow the directions above.
- From Kingman, AZ
 - Take US-93 North to AZ-68 towards Laughlin. In Laughlin, take NV-163 towards US-95. Drive north on US-95 towards Searchlight. In Searchlight, take a left onto NV-164 (Joshua Tree Highway/Nipton Rd.). Drive until you reach the I-15 and turn left (south). Take I-15 to Cima Rd. exit and follow instructions above.

Suggested Items to Bring:

We will have most of the non-required "Field Work Items"; however, we are anticipating many volunteers and will not have enough for everyone. If you have these items, please bring them, but do not feel obligated to go purchase them, except for the first four items. We will not have any of the camping items to loan out.

Field Work Items

- Work gloves (required)
- Ability to carry water for day (at least 3 Liters) (required)
- Closed-toe hiking shoes (not necessarily boots, but should have laces) (required)

- Backpack (required)(or [gear hauler](#) if you have one)
- Hat
- Sunscreen
- Trowel/Sharpshooter shovel
- Pliers
- Wire cutter
- Knife
- Personal First Aid Kit
- Straps
- GPS (only if you have one)

Camping Items

- Sleeping pad/cot
- Sleeping bag (rated 20°F or lower)
- Tent
- Water (1 gal per person per day)
- Food
- Stove/fuel
- Lighter
- Firewood
- Camp chair
- Kitchen utensils
 - Pots, cups, fork, spoon, etc.
- Headlamp/flashlight/lantern
- Warm clothes
- Rain jacket
- Chapstick
- Toilet paper
- Toiletries
- Medications
- Games/cards
- Comfy camp shoes
- Hand sanitizer/soap
- Charging devices/cords
- Trash/recycling bags
- Musical instruments